

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

QSB 763
N66N3

Forest Alert

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Southern Region Northeastern Area

NA-FB/P-21 Revised 8/94

Gypsy Moth



Larva (May-June) - hairy caterpillar with five pairs of blue spots and six pairs of red spots along the back



Pupa (July-August) - pupal skin and pupa (females are larger than males)



Adults and egg mass (July-August) - male moth is brown; female is white with brown markings



Egg mass (August-May) - small larvae emerge the following May

The gypsy moth has been a primary defoliator of hardwoods in the Northeastern United States since its introduction in 1869. New England, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington D.C. and portions of Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia are generally infested. Isolated infestations have been noted in some North Central, Southern, and Western States, and are subject to eradication by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Oaks are the preferred host species, but most species of trees and shrubs are also defoliated by the gypsy moth when preferred hosts are not available or have been completely defoliated. Black walnut is seldom attacked; and ash, tulip poplar, locust, and sycamore are never attacked.

The potential spread of this insect is high. The host range is extensive, and artificial spread of the insect has increased the already high rate of dispersion by natural means. Artificial spread, the movement of egg masses and pupae on nursery stock, forest products, equipment, and all types of vehicles, can be reduced by close inspection of articles moving from infested to noninfested areas.



For more information contact your County Agricultural Agent, State Forester, State Entomologist, or State Extension Specialist.

